



GARS News

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September, 1994

GARS News

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**ARNOLD SOLOMON,
KC4ZUA
GARS
HAM OF THE MONTH**
by Johnny Fearon, W4WKP

The GARS member selected to be this month's Ham of the Month, is Technician class license holder KC4ZUA, AKA Arnold Solomon. Arnold earned his license at the Kennahoochie hamfest in 1991. He is the devoted father of two wonderful children, Jeff and Katie, and lives in Snellville with them and his wife Judy. Arnold is employed by Georgia Power where he has worked for over eight years.

Before Arnold was licensed he was an avid shortwave listener for quite some time, having built KnightKit HF and VHF receivers then later getting a scanner. Being health conscious, Arnold also enjoys riding his bicycle with daughter Katie, as well as other exercises to keep fit.

His son Jeff has been seen at numerous GARS activities as well as attending with Arnold various VHF and UHF contests where the Georgia Power Amateur Radio Society participated.

Besides his normal repeater activities from the Azden 700 in his car, Arnolds' other Amateur interests include packet, fox hunting and meeting so many people from such varied walks of life. He enjoys ragchewing on 2-meter phone which he did at quite a distance in Texas with an Icom IC-2AT on a recent trip. He also works packet with his "Tiny 2" TNC and IC-2AT when he is away.

Arnold is an active member of various groups including the GARS, East Atlanta LAN, Atlanta Radio Club and Georgia Power Amateur Radio Society.

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DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS at the GEORGIA FLOODS

by Duane Hansen, KD4KCR

Sat. July 9, 1994 0600 UTC:

AD4JU this is KD4KCR

KD4KCR this is AD4JU go ahead!

Hi Chuck, Duane here, I heard that you were the man to contact if I wanted to help the folks in South Ga.

Right, Duane, when can you leave?

Well, I've got several days off and I could leave as soon as you give me the word and stay for several days.

OK I'll find out and get back to you.

I'll be getting the stuff together and be ready to leave when you give me the call. KD4KCR clear.

AD4JU Clear

This is pretty close to how it began.

I had talked to several folks and had been listening to the Georgia State Wide ARES net on 3975 kHz and could tell that there was a shortage of Hams in south Ga., particularly in Bainbridge



where there was but one active Ham, W4NHU, Oscar who had been on the air steady for three days. Standard Operating Procedure required that Hams who wanted to help were to check with their ARES County Contact or District Emergency Coordinator and get orders from him, hence the call to Chuck, AD4JU who is the Metro Atlanta DEC.

What was happening in South Georgia? Tropical storm "Alberto" had just swept in from the Gulf of Mexico and over the heartland of Georgia dumping record rainfall over most of the state. The northern portion of the state had escaped major damage because of its elevation and rapid drainage but our neighbors to the south were not so fortunate.

South Georgia, beginning just south of Atlanta, had to contend with their own portion of the deluge and northern Georgia's run-off too.

The combination proved destructive and deadly. A new flood plane was defined. All the rules designating the 100 year flood plain were cast aside for a new 500 year demarcation.

Chuck contacted me Sunday afternoon and said that I was to assist with communications in Bainbridge. I was elated! I had been loading the car with all kinds of equipment and supplies I thought that I would need. Four 6 volt golf cart batteries wired series-parallel would provide many amp-hours of power if needed.

My HF rig is a 120 Volt/AC only so I got on the local repeater and asked Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS) members about the possible loan of a 12 Volt HF rig. It didn't take long. Steve, AD4LY, offered the loan of his Kenwood TS-450S and I pounced on the opportunity.

Already having 2M FM (50 Watt) capability in the car, I grabbed my dual band HT to work locally. I took down my home brew 80 meter inverted-vee and gathered up several connectors and extra coax. The 12 volt cooler that my

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GARS News

Gars News is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, submit *News* items in ASCII format by posting a private message to Dean Matthews on the GARS conference of the Scientific Atlanta BBS (903-5487), then use the Save Attached save command, which will prompt you to upload your ASCII file. Art can be accepted in TIFF or PCX format on IBM compatible disk.

Contact the Editor for odd format compatibility, or other means of transfer. Deadline for article submissions is the first Thursday of each month.

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(Disaster, continued from p.1)

wife had packed with enough food to last me a few days was loaded and also a couple of 5 gal water bottles.

A few changes of clothes and the ditty bag rounded out my personal equipment. My recent field day experience was coming into its own. This was the real thing!

I had discussed with several folks about packet capabilities and since I had but one battery powered computer that would only last a couple of hours I opted to leave the packet equipment at home (my first mistake) as I was later to find that the majority of Health & Welfare traffic is distributed via packet.

I left Dacula, Ga. at about 7:30PM Sunday and went over to Dean's, AD4OD, house to pick up a 35MM camera and fill my water bottles. A second stop at Joe's, AD4PZ, yielded a nice gel cell battery as back up for my HT. I finally hit the Interstate system at about 9:00PM.

I had been talking with Pete, K4LDR, about the trip and he had offered a list of Hams in the Bainbridge area. I thought this was rather kind of him but opted to go another route that took me away from his house (my second mistake). I discovered via repeater conversations that the list was expected in Bainbridge and I was to be the courier of the needed document.

Dean, AD4OD suggested that the list could be faxed to me when I found a motel later that night. I arranged with Dean to do just that and he went by Pete's house and picked up the list. I arrived in Macon around 11:00PM and found that the Motels there (as well as most of the residences) had no water.

The motel employees were giving guests bottled water for drinking and motel toilets were flushed by water carried from the swimming pool. I contacted Dean there and he faxed me the list of hams.

I wanted to get as far south as possible before retiring for the night so I decided to try for better accommodations (a shower rather than a dip in a pool) later on. This was a bit risky but by checking with area Hams on the repeaters, I determined the communities affected by the flood waters and was

GARS GROWS GREATLY BY GOLLY!

Welcome these new folks to GARS:

Keith Burke, KE4ENW

Maurice Burke, KE4OFA

Robert F. Cronin, KE4MSF

Jan David Jubon, K2HJ

Spyros Kosmetatos, N4NIA

Harold E. Griner, associate member

Take a moment to meet these new members at the next club meeting or on the air! -ED •

routed to an area that should yield appropriate lodging.

I arrived in Moultrie at 3:00am and found a motel there and proceeded to get a 3 hour nap. The wake up call came about 3 seconds later, or so it seemed.

Running on raw nerve, I approached Bainbridge and found a welcoming committee on 147.03 MHz, the Tallahassee Repeater. I believe my first contact there was Ed, AD4KH, who guided me in and located Oscar, W4NHU who also got on the 03 repeater and brought me up to date on the situation and gave directions to the main Red Cross shelter.

Many thanks to the organization that sponsors the Tallahassee 147.03 repeater as everyone was most courteous and were a great help in keeping a clear frequency for emergency, and support traffic on that frequency, even through normal drive times the folks that use the machine on a daily basis were more than happy to stand by, so we could use the repeater. These people know Amateur Radio!

The shelter, an elementary school, was a hive of activity and it took me a while to locate the shelter manager,

(Continued on next page)

(Disaster, continued from p.2)

Louise, but was well received and directed to find any place that would be acceptable for my antennas etc.

I also met Ed, N3EUV an active duty National Guardsman from Brunswick, Ga. who was in the process of setting up both military and Amateur Radio communications for the shelter. He stated that he was glad that I was there as he might be called off to provide communications elsewhere in the area. This proved to be the case as he was packed up and gone 15 minutes later.

When Ed got the call to move - Walter, KQ4SF, a Ham from nearby Pelham, and I proceeded to get the 80 meter inverted-vee up in a nice pine tree directly behind the School building.

Within 20 Minutes we were on the air communicating with ARES via Rick, N4CYC, on the 3975 ARES emergency net. By the way, we Hams had a much better signal than the military setup, HI.

After about a half hour of operating out of doors we were allowed to set up our communications center in a classroom that also became home to several Hams over the next several days.

We located my personal vehicle a few inches from one of the classroom windows so we could pass cables through the window to the batteries located in the trunk of the car in case of a power failure.

Putting a large table inside next to this window we set up the station. This included my 2m mobile radio inside, with mag-mount antenna on the top of my car outside, and the HF station to the inverted-vee.

Both stations worked flawlessly and we were secure and ready to start passing traffic.

It became clear that the Red Cross preferred packet communication to phone, so we began calling around to try and secure a packet station. With the help of several area stations we set up packet operations using a Baypac modem, a notebook computer and my HT.

Once we got the proper software loaded, the packet station operated great. This was my first time using nodes extensively and the system offered

(Continued on next page)

Field Day '95

by Vince Hrabosky, KE4DYY

Yes, I know that Field Day, 1995, is about a year away. And as your newly appointed Field Day Chairperson, I thought, as this years field day was still on everyone's minds, that it would be a good time to ask those that participated on their thoughts on how we might add to this years success for next year. I'd like your ideas and suggestions and if you like, any criticism.

As this was my first Field Day as a participant, I am interested in learning as much as I can from those who have participated in Field Days of those years gone by and, from those whose this years Field Day was also their first (should just about cover most everyone in GARS).

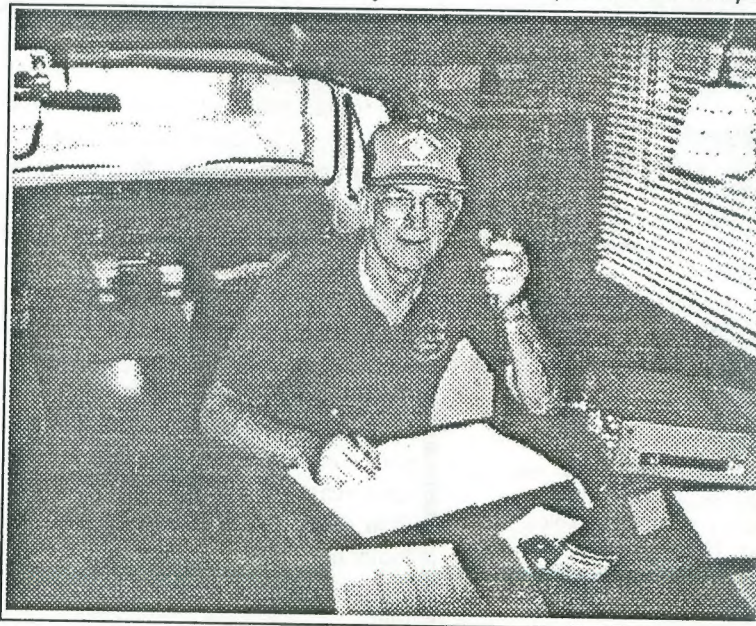
First, I'd like to acknowledge the help that everyone gave this year and, to those that have already volunteered for next year's event, Duane, KD4KCR, Jud W4NZJ, and Picket AD4S. I'd especially like to thank this years Field Day

Chairman, John Scott, KD4VHG, for the outstanding effort he put forth, and for his volunteering to help me with next years event. (I understand that John volunteered to become chairman when no one else would do it). Thanks to all.

Now for next year. Some of us that participated in this years event noted that there was a bit of interference between some of the rigs used. An idea proposed was that the club needs to purchase a spool of coax (RG-8) to separate the antennas as far as possible to help decrease the interference. I'll try to see if the club will help with this.

We also noted that at times some of the bands just drop off with little or no activity. Rather than struggle to make contacts, we may want to consider constructing some multiband antennas and filters that would allow a few rigs to switch bands. I thought that a few volunteers could pick this up as a project

(Continued on next page)



The above is a photo of:

- 1). Air traffic controller At Hartsfield International Airport.
 - 2). Dispatcher for the Suwanee Cab Company.
 - 3). Voice of the CB "Coffee Break" at exit 4 on I-985.
 - 4). George Carlins' father.
 - 5). Stan McDonald WA4IZI, Honorary Lifetime GARS Member, pictured at his luxurious mobile operating position at GARS Field Day '94
- Correct answer found at next years GARS Field Day.

Contact GARS

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Vice President:

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HAM CLASSES:

KA9UIE Steve Idler 513-0428

JOIN GARS

Membership dues for the 1994-1995 are:

\$25.00 for Individual Memberships

\$35.00 for Family Memberships

Contact Jack Herndon, KE4EMA at 995-0438 for more information about joining GARS.

GARS

W5YI-VEC TEST SESSION

4th Friday at St. John Neumann Church - 801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trickum Road, Lilburn. Contact Howie Gould, W4NVF at 921-8362. Walk-In Exams - Headphones!

(Field Day, continued from p.3)

for next year, possibly with help from our Rookie Radio group. Along with this we would need to insure that we coordinate the usage of the bands during the event.

I understand that 2 of the radios the club has direct access to that were used during field day were not working correctly. I would believe that GARS has the individuals with the knowledge and experience that can bring these radios into full operation. I'd like someone to volunteer to work on these radios. This would provide a operational radios not only for next years field day, but also to allow the club owned radio to be used as loaner to the membership as proposed in a past GARS meeting.

Possibly you have some good ideas that could help make next years event even better. Did you like the site that was chosen, or would another site be better? Were you given the opportunity to operate or would you like to see another arrangement made to permit you to operate? Would it be a good idea to pair up experienced operators with those that have little to no experience with operating in this contest like event? Would another method of volunteering for operating positions be desired? I'd like your ideas.

If this years site was considered a good one, I'll investigate acquiring the site as early as possible for next year. If you would like to volunteer to help out with next field day, please let me know.

These is a little time to wait before the big event arrives. So don't feel you need to rush to volunteer, yet. Right now the most important thing you can do is to make sure your ideas are heard. This would allow us plenty of time to address your concerns and suggestions and make next years field day as good, or better, than this years field day. I'd like to see Field Day be as much fun as possible and your suggestion would help do just that.

You can e-mail your ideas to me through the Scientific Atlanta BBS (to: Vincent Hrabosky), or to my home address (I'm in the GARS Roster), or, if you like, just tell me in person as I attend most GARS meetings. ♦

(Disaster, continued from p.3)

fairly rapid communication with Red Cross disaster headquarters in Columbus, Ga.

I later discovered that many messages, bound for our area, were held up in Atlanta. Further investigation revealed that the Red Cross in Atlanta could not establish packet communications with the Red Cross in Columbus and therefore refused to pass the traffic by any other means.

I thought, when I offered my assistance, that I was just part of a convening team of Hams. Shortly after coming on the air it became apparent that I was not only relieving Oscar, N4NHU, but became area coordinator for the rest of the Hams that were to come and liaison to the Red Cross shelter manager.

What a reality check! Checking with the local authorities and the weather services we began to prepare for the worst. I was asked by ARES to determine the number of Hams that were needed and get schedules up for operating times. Phew, what a task, and one that I had no training for other than supervisory duties in my job at a Gwinnett County Water Reclamation Facility.

We were fortunate to have a large chalk board in the classroom which became the media for outlining our battle plan. We started logging the on-air contacts and kept the current HF Net control station posted there so relief hams would have a point of reference to determine who and where the different hams were, the contacts and NCS.

Also diagrammed was a calendar indicating which hams would be available for what days so we could know at a glance how we were being staffed.

On Monday afternoon the Shelter Manager asked me to cease all transmitting as there had been a bomb threat and the shelter was being evacuated. I assured the manager that we would not transmit and had to resist that urge as many people were calling me on both the HF and VHF frequencies.

I found it interesting that we were asked to cease transmitting but the shelter personnel continued to use their cellular phones and the Guardsmen

(Disaster, continued on next page)

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Monthly Meeting Minutes

July 21, 1994

In attendance: Howard Gould, W4NVF, President; Larry Osborne, KD4QFD, Vice President; Ike Chapman, KE4GYM, Secretary; Charles Evans, WA4QYY, Treasurer; David Adcock, KA4KKF, Activities Manager; Dean Matthews, AD4OD, Newsletter Editor.

The meeting was called to order at 19:55 local time by President Gould at the Red Cross Building in Lawrenceville. Howie asked that all members and visitors introduce themselves, the sign-in sheet for the meeting shows that 47 members and 14 visitors (for a total of 61) were in attendance at the meeting.

Howie asked that the minutes for the previous meeting be accepted as published in the GARS newsletter. There was no opposition to this motion and the minutes were adopted as published.

Charles, WA4QYY, presented the treasurer's report. There was a beginning balance of \$5900.18, with \$957.06 in income and \$3428.80 in expenses for a ending balance of \$3428.44. In response to a question from the floor about what the expenses, Charles reported that the expenses for the month included the phone bill, power bill for the Oak Street and Snellville repeater sites, mailing expenses for the newsletter and the remaining balance due on the repeater.

Howie, W4NVF, said that he had been in contact with Kendecom and that the repeater had shipped on Tuesday, 7/19, and he expected delivery on Friday, 7/22.

Larry, KD4QFD, announced that Frank Deak, AM4Y, had volunteered to become DXCC checker for GARS.

David, KA4KKF, reviewed upcoming activities for GARS and stressed that he needed volunteers to help with all of these events. These events include Southeast Amateur Radio Convention (contact David, KA4KKF), SciTrek on the third Sunday and fourth Thursday (contact David, KA4KKF), CW Classes (contact David, KA4KKF), Amateur Radio demonstration at K-Mart on Pleasant Hill on 8/27 (contact Ike, KE4GYM or Joe, AD4PZ), and the Challenge Plus Bicycle Race on 9/24 (contact Charles, WA4QYY). David also discussed three events coming up in October, two school festivals and the Tribble Mill Park Public Lands Day.

Howie, W4NVF, suggested that GARS conduct a tail gate event and auction on the second weekend on November. There will more information on this at a later date.

Howie, W4NVF, discussed the Christmas party and announced that the Executive committee was putting together plans for making this an annual awards banquet as well as the Christmas party with awards going to the GARS Ham of the Year and service awards recognizing those members of GARS that have participated in GARS sponsored events and other Amateur Radio related public service events.

Howie, W4NVF, recognized John, KD4VHG, for his efforts as the GARS Field Day Chairman for the past two years and announced that Vince, KE4DYY has agreed to become Field Chairman for the 1995 Field Day.

Ike, KE4GYM, substituting for Jack, KE4EMA, presented six new candidates for GARS membership. All candidates were accepted as new members without opposition. Those joining GARS were: Keith Burke, KE4ENW; Maurice Burke, KE4OFA; Robert F. Cronie, KE4MSF; Harold E. Griner, associate member; Jan David Jubon, K2HJ and Spyros Kosmetatos, N4NIA.

Bob, KD4VHW, reported on his search for a new meeting place. Bob reported that his search was based six criteria: no charge for use of the facility, large enough to hold GARS membership, air conditioned, geographic location, available on the third Thursday, long term commitment of the facility to GARS. Based on these criteria Bob has not yet been able to locate a suitable alternative. After a period of discussion and several suggestions as to possible meeting sites, Howie, W4NVF, appointed a committee consisting of Bob, KD4VHW; John, KE4KPV; Jim, N2EST; Steve, AD4LY; and Ted Carlough to search for a new meeting site. The committee is to report back by the end of the year on their suggestions.

During a discussion of fund raising events, Dean, AD4OD, made a motion that a 50/50 raffle be held at the next meeting as a test for a fund raising effort. The motion was seconded and the vote was to the affirmative with 4 votes in opposition.

Howie, W4NVF, asked that the club give recognition to those GARS members who volunteered in the recent flooding in Middle and South Georgia. This included Duane, KD4KCR; Cheryl, KE4JKM; Arnold, KC4ZUA; Jud, W4NZJ; and Arlin, KB5UKL.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:05 by President Gould.

(Disaster, continued from p.4)

continued their radio contacts unabated!?

Didn't they know that their equipment was also RF emitting devices? Before the day was out, we had yet another bomb threat but thanks to quick action on part of the Bainbridge Police Department the perpetrator was collared.

Bob W4TFL, and Bob W4OWY arrived Monday afternoon from Marietta, Ga. and helped maintain contact with HF, NCS and coordinate the arrival of additional hams on Tuesday.

Monday found the waters still rising. The threat of the closure of the bridge to West Bainbridge resulted in my deciding to send W4OWY over to the West Bainbridge Red Cross shelter to maintain communications between the two shelters and the rest of the world.

He set up HF Phone and VHF packet capabilities in the west Bainbridge shelter and maintained communications with my station through VHF simplex and HF ARES NCS through Monday night and part of the day Tuesday.

Reinforcements began to arrive with KE4FGX, KR4IC, N4UVA and KD4VWT coming in from Chickamauga, Ga. in the wee hours of Tuesday morning. Your's truly had managed only 5 hours sleep in the past 40 hours and did not get off the cot to welcome these folks and W4TFL never let me forget it for the duration of the mission, and probably never will!

On Tuesday I sent the Chickamauga group to west Bainbridge to relieve W4OWY who returned to the east side of the Flint River to assist in maintaining the station in east Bainbridge.

I now found myself with but one duty, hot-footing messages back and forth between the Shelter Manager and the outside world.

From my perspective there was quite a bit of confusion on the part of the Red Cross as to the Amateur Radio function and who had the authority to pass health and welfare traffic. I was frustrated by what I perceived as an attitude of "Amateur Radio people are nice guys but our phones are working so

(Disaster, continued on next page)

QUA

1st Tuesday,

Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

American Roadhouse Restaurant in the Dunwoody Village Shopping Center. Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, program begins at 7:00PM. TI-145.41-

1st Wednesday -

HamWatch

Shoney's 11690 Alpharetta Hwy., Roswell (about 2 1/2 miles North of Holcomb Bridge Rd across from North Fulton Hospital) Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting is at 7:30 PM

1st Thursday

N.E. Georgia Amateur Radio Club

Jefferson Civic Center, off Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson. Dinner at 6:15. meeting is at 7:00PM. TI-147.225+

1st Thursday -

Atlanta Radio Club

Days Inn at I-285 and Roswell Rd. Dinner at Old Hickory House at 6:00PM. Meeting is at 7:30PM TI-146.82-

2nd Wednesday

North Fulton Radio League

Cherokee Cattle Company, 11208 Alpharetta Hwy. Dinner at 6:00PM. Meeting at 7:30PM TI-145.47-

2nd Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting at 7:30PM. TI-146.76-

2nd Saturday

East Atlanta LAN

Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at 10:00AM. TI-145.41-

3rd Thursday

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Meeting is at 7:30PM at the Red Cross Building, Hi-Hope Rd off Hwy 316 in Lawrenceville. Pre-Meeting fellowship dinner at 6:00PM. at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy 120, South of 316 TI-147.075+

(Disaster, continued from p.5)

don't bother us".

I had been notified by the MARS Base Support Team (BST) via Norman, W4ARH, that they had a complete, self contained station, and were ready to come down and assist provided that they received a request for assistance from the Red Cross. I determined that if the situation approached what was predicted by reliable sources we were going to need all the help we could get.

The fact was that we had sufficient personnel on site but these people would be ready to go home in a few days and we had best have replacement "troops" on the way.

The next 36 hours were spent in procuring this authorization to no avail. I asked the Shelter Manager several times to obtain her supervisor's permission to summon the BST unit. She assured me each time that she would and never did. It wasn't until she was relieved by another shelter manager that the call went in. I could find no reason for the delay and the Red Cross main operation unit in Columbus never made the call for assistance.

What I could not make them understand was that we were there for emergency communications IF needed and to supply supplemental communications services. The Red Cross was able to maintain communications throughout the operation using land-line and cellular telephone service and apparently did not see the need of alternate modes of communication.

Had the common carrier service failed, then I suppose the Amateur Radio Service really would have come into play in a big way.

Better communications between ARES and The Red Cross and the Georgia Emergency Management Authority (GEMA) must be accomplished so this confusion can be avoided in future disasters. The Red Cross and GEMA need to know what we, the Amateurs, are capable of doing, what we are willing to do, and that we need time to set up just as they do. We don't want to wait until communications fail before we begin to set up to provide the needed services. We also need to have available a chain of command so we know exactly who, at

least by title, we need to contact for information concerning routing of traffic within the Red Cross and H&W traffic into and out of the disaster area.

I do not wish to place specific blame on anyone here. I just want the problems that this operation (Amateur Radio Assistance) encountered made known to the rest of the Amateur Radio community and ARES in particular so these obstacles might be overcome in the future.

The Red Cross needs to be aware that expeditious disposal of H&W traffic can do nothing but publicly declare to the masses that they care. I firmly believe that they really do care.

Watching the volunteers assist each homeless individual in procuring food and shelter was heartwarming. More can be done, however, by assuring that the homeless contact their loved ones outside the disaster area.

Equally important is that concerned individuals on the outside be able to get messages into the affected area. Even if the messages are getting out using conventional means, people on the outside were not able to call into the distressed area and not everyone who needed to get messages were in the shelters.

The Red Cross needs to realize that each H&W message passed is a document declaring that the system really does work and this Amateur Radio Operator doesn't care if the public knows that Amateur Radio had anything to do with it, just so the traffic gets through!

The Red Cross took very good care of everyone including us (Hams) in our stay in Bainbridge providing us with cots for sleeping, air conditioned quarters and excellent food and refreshments.

Shower and laundry facilities were provided by the local YMCA. I was positively impressed with the Red Cross operation there and believe that all Amateur Radio operators involved in the operation left an excellent impression with the Red Cross and the Community.

Wednesday morning Bob, KR4DA, from Lawrenceville, Ga. arrived equipped with a complete HF, VHF and VHF Packet station and was seen by myself as my relief. Bob found plenty to do

(Disaster, continued on next page)

(Disaster, continued from p.6)

in maintaining readiness.

I took down all of my equipment with the exception of the inverted-vee that he could return to me later or if he had to, leave before the operation was complete. Oscar offered to box up the antenna and send it back to me.

Bob continued with Claude, AC4SH of Elberton, Ga. to keep alternative lines of communication open should conventional modes fail until his departure on Friday morning. At that time, Georgia ARES declared the situation no longer critical and all stations returned home.

Special thanks; are always needed not to exclude the many who assisted in many ways but to allow me to say in writing that certain folks touched my life in ways that will be long remembered.

A special note of appreciation and gratitude goes to Oscar Jackson, W4NHU, of Bainbridge. This gentleman constantly checked with us at the shelter as to our comfort and needs and went far beyond the call of duty in providing equipment, food and even a color TV for our information and enjoyment.

He even offered his home as a place to rest and clean up (we were rapidly becoming a scrungy looking lot) and although we might all think that we would do the same, the fact still stands that HE DID. Also special thanks goes to Walter, KQ4SF, who checked with us daily and provided both equipment and operation time as well as much humor.

Also there was Victor Epstein, the Savannah News Press reporter who drove me around as I tried to get pictures and a video of the flood waters and some of the affected homes, businesses and the people who lived there. It was fascinating to observe this professional news reporter in action. Hopefully he gave us some good press!

Also my wife, Bessie, thanks Pete K4LDR, Dean AD4OD, Chuck AD4JU and others who not only relayed my own health and welfare to my family but offered to assist them in their daily needs during my absence.

Many great folks took part in this operation both in Bainbridge and around the state of Georgia, Florida and Alabama. The way the Gwinnett County 'ad

hoc' Emergency Committee, put together mostly of non-ARES members, coordinated and expedited the teams was truly a sight to behold.

I quickly jotted down the list of call-signs on the chalk board at the shelter and I understand that others helped in the effort after I left on Wednesday afternoon so the list is not complete.

This list is not in any particular order, just as I had scrawled it on the black board. AD4JU, K4LDR, N4UCK, AD4OD, AD4KH, KR4IR, KE4KXW (Ga. State Patrol Officer working the area), W4YWI, W4ARH, W4NHU, W4TFL, K4ZMO, KQ4SF, N3EUV, N3GLC, N4CYC, WD4SEU, KE4MCV, KC4ZLT, W4OWY, W4TEL, KR4IC, KE4FGX, KR4DA, N4UVA, KD4VWT and AC4SH.

Well, What have I learned? What would I do differently? A Lot!

In answer to these questions I have already began to prepare for the next disaster. I am going to join ARES, the Red Cross, and get more information about GEMA. I am also preparing by carefully examining my station and equipment. I am preparing a box that will contain all the equipment that I can spare to just stay in the box with a list of the things that are in the box and a list of things that need to be packed for transport.

In retrospect, I consider all the following as essential equipment for a single operator. A team could split up the equipment or even add more:

- 1). A completely portable (12 volt including the computer.) packet station.
- 2). A hand held 2M rig.
- 3). A 12 Volt HF rig.
- 4). 500 ft of strong twine or light rope.
- 5). A sling shot with fishing reel attached and 1 oz teardrop sinkers.
- 6). 14 gauge wire, jumpers, solder and soldering iron.
- 7). PL-259 connectors with adapters for RG-58 coax and PL259/BNC adapters.
- 8). More than enough rechargeable batteries for all equipment.
- 9). Battery chargers.
- 10). Camping equipment (the next disaster might not include an air conditioned shelter)
- 11). Heavy gloves, boots, rain gear.

12). Several changes of clothes and toiletries.

13). An extensive First Aid kit.

14). A good cooler (iceless 12 volt is best)

15). Plenty of tarp material to keep things dry.

16). A good still camera with flash.

17). A video camera.

18). Notebook, pens / pencils.

19). ARRL, red cross, and ARES message forms.

20). List of area Hams.

21). Mechanical and electrical tool kits.

ADVERTISE IN GARS NEWS

We are now accepting a limited number of advertisements for publication in the GARS News.

Contact either Jim Baker, KC4YBQ at 479-0479, Joe Biddle, AD4PZ at 963-4316 or Dean Matthews, AD4OD at 962-8941 for more information.

All of the proceeds from the sale of advertisements go to support the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, a non-profit ARRL Affiliated Special Service organization.

(Ham of the Month, Cont'd from p.1)

He is positive about GARS and enjoys it very much. He served as activities manager for GARS for two years and did a superb job at it during his time.

Arnold take the ribbing about his "northern Alabama" accent extremely well. Always ready with a friendly word and helping hand for his fellow club members, Arnold is a definite asset of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society. ♦

A Ham at a fest saw a
treasure,
which he wanted... to give him
much pleasure.
The toy he did buy,
and when wife she did spy,
she cut him an inch short of
measure.

AD4OD

The PRESIDENT'S PEN by Howard Gould, W4N9F

July was another busy and productive month for GARS. We had loads of fun at Ft Yargo and I look forward to another family outing next year. We did a great job at the Southeastern Amateur Radio Conference and the donation we received from the Atlanta Radio Club for our repeater fund made it all worth while.

Thanks to all who put in some tough hours and a lot of lip service by everybody. Would we do it again next year? I would because it was a good experience for all of us and I think there are a lot of you who have the same feelings.

We also had the Georgia Games going on and some of our members participated in that which was a worthy cause. One of the guys at the hamfest who put in a very long weekend away from his family who showed dedication to a job well done was David, KA4KKF. With folks like David around, GARS can't help but be a winner.

We have a bunch of new members who have an awful lot of talent when you add them all up and I think we will see lots of help and support from them in the coming months. It's great to see

up a place of business on the auto patch and put on hold, while they are on hold, a music tape starts to play. Regulations are being broken and you can not only get yourself in hot water, but you can get the repeater trustee in trouble. Please folks, don't use the phone patch for any calls to businesses, it's for personal use only. If you value your license and I hope that you do, then play it by the regulations... that's what they were made for. If you do not have a copy of part 97 rules, then please get a copy and read them.

Even though the FCC has relaxed it's rules on what we can and not say over the air waves, it would be in the best interests of all if we used some discretion and try to follow a code of ethics that means we use the repeater phone patch for personal calls leaving some room for other amateur related things. Please don't use the patch for telling your boss your late, or to make a dental appointment, or to order a pizza.

We will soon have enough control Ops to monitor this situation and they will have the power to terminate any patch that does not fit amateur radio guidelines.

Along those lines, I have heard some bootleggers on, punching up 911 codes or playing back recordings of some hams who may or may not have been on the GARS machine, and in one instance playing back a recording of myself.

I think we may have more than one involved and that is really sad, but this sort of thing has been in ham radio for some time now but it is getting worse with the easy availability of getting radio equipment without showing you have a license to operate that equipment. It is difficult to find these persons, but maybe that will change as more of us get involved in trying to solve it.

Summer is winding down now and soon the kids will be back in school. We have an excellent opportunity to move into the school system with amateur

WORK GARS

REPEATER

GARS 2-Meter
FM repeater 147.075 MHz +600

TELEPHONE BBS

GARS Conference in
Sci-Atl phone BBS 903-5487

6-METER BEACON

WA4IOB 6 Meter Beacon at 50.075 MHz

PACKET

WD4JXR-6 / SNELLV Packet
Node/Digipeater 147.03 MHz

SWAP, WANTED and SELL NET

Tuesdays at 8:00PM on the
GARS Repeater. 147.075 MHz

MORSE CODE PRACTICE SESSION

An interactive Morse Code practice session immediately follows the 8:00P.M. Tuesday night net on the GARS repeater, and on Thursdays at 9:00P.M..

radio as a teaching tool. We as a club should pursue these possibilities in the coming school year and be ready to teach ham radio to those youngsters who will be ripe for the learning. If any of you members come in contact with someone in the school system who would be interested in ham radio related projects, then please contact David, KA4KKF. Tammy, KE4IKK has a couple of school related items in the works for early October, so keep listening for further information.

We are falling behind in the code practice nets especially on Thursday evenings due to lack of net control stations to run the code. If this is to be a successful event for GARS, we will need to supply the manpower to operate these sessions besides Duane, KD4KCR and Steve, AD4LY.

We are a special services club only because we chose to be an inspirational club for hams who want to be on the go doing things with their hobby besides sitting by the rig at home and making contacts.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

8th	KE4IKS	Dennis Prince
10th	KD4MQR	Richard Head
17th	AD2Q	David Rife

Information taken from the GARS Roster. Not on the list or wrong date? Let the Membership Chairman know! -Ed. ♦

so many people pitching in to make this a great club to hang your hat with. We also have some out in the wings ready to join at the next meeting.

The future looks good for GARS and I can only predict everyone getting to know each other a whole bunch more. There is a lot of knowledge to be shared between us so take advantage of the good times folks.

I am hearing some comments on the repeater where individuals are calling

Being a net control station for the code practice sessions gives you an opportunity to give back to the hobby what you are taking out of it which is experience at being a good operator and the knowledge to help your less fortunate friends who are trying to upgrade themselves and need a little extra push. Besides, you also will receive a warm feeling inside yourself for your contribution to this fine effort. So please won't you give it some consideration and call Duane or Steve?

Of course we all have been through the flood news and the destruction and still hard times those people are going through down south of us. There is honorable mention given here for those GARS members who without hesitation or question gave up their personal lives for a moment in time and went into those distress areas to help with the health and welfare messages that were urgently needed.

To name a few and I may miss someone so please forgive me, Duane, KD4KCR, Jud, W4NZJ, Arlin, KB5UKL, Cheryl, KE4JKM and Arnold, KC4ZUA who went into the Atlanta Red Cross center and non GARS members Chuck, AD4JU, and Pete K4LDR who held communications open between local ARES and state officials and Grip, KR4DA who also went down into troubled areas in the flood sectors.

This was purely dedication by these hams and I know they received no awards for their efforts. We are proud of you all and thank you for being there in the time of need.

We hope to build on the ARES network and will be having Pat, KC4DOO the appointed EC for Gwinnett County and a GARS member give us an up to date report of ARES and any appointments from the applications filled out by GARS members. This presentation will be at the August meeting.

Bob, KD4VHW has stepped down as chairman of the New Meeting Facility Committee due to an increase in his workload and I have appointed Steve, AD4LY as new chairman. Bob will remain on the committee in a less grueling capacity which benefits all concerned.

We are still pursuing ways to make the Red Cross building where we hold our meetings more accommodating and one of the items mentioned at the last meeting was possible purchasing of additional chairs and Jean, KA4BNG was to find out what the fire marshall says about maximum people for the room we are using.

Even though we are increasing our membership each month, we need to remember how fortunate we are to have a steady place to meet at no expense to the club so let us not rush into wanting to give up something that we may never get back.

We just had a rare chance to work the WAC award which is for worked all Cummins award because Bill, K6MYF who is Pickett, AD4S's brother was in town for a wedding. I heard a lot of chatter by a lot of members scrambling to see if they could get W5CE on the air who is Pickett's twin brother. I also heard Pickett mention that they have never given out any certificates so I guess we put some pressure on those Cummins boys as they realized that maybe this was going to be the time that they would have to put up or shut up. Hi Hi

I hope to see you all at the next meeting don't forget the pre-meeting dinner at Ryan's Steak House starting around six.

73. Howie W4NVF

A Not Very Funny Production. ♦

ROOKIE RADIO NOTES

by Cheryl McClure, KE4JKM

GARS is growing by leaps and bounds. Welcome to all the new members, some of whom are rookies like me. Rookie Radio is a group for and by rookies to learn from the "well seasoned hams" in the club. You tell me what you want to learn and I will find someone to teach us. So far this year we have had classes in packet radio, kit building, and antenna construction. CW classes

are coming soon! Join in and let me know what you want to explore!

Duane, KD4KCR, has a great idea in conjunction with the upcoming CW classes. Once the rookies pass their 5 WPM test we can meet on a 10 meter novice band Rookie Net and practice. I know I will feel more comfortable during my first shaky contacts knowing I am among friends. Great idea Duane!

I recently had the pleasure of using the club's Tempo HF rig for a month. It was great to be able to listen to all the bands I had previously only heard about. I passed it on to the next person on the waiting list. I'm sure more rookies would benefit from the same experience. This is a call to all radio rich hams out there who might have an extra old rig sitting around the shack gathering dust. If you would be willing to offer your extra rig for loan, please give me a call (995-5159) or let our President, Howie (W4NVF) know and I will arrange everything. I will be on vacation for the next few weeks but I will contact you as soon as I return. Thank you!

There is still time to get in on the tour of the multiple tower ham shack. Let me know soon if you are interested!

BITS and PIECES

The GARS net set another new record for check-ins on Tuesday, July 5 with 40 stations checking-in. The previous record was 30 set just last month. Net control for the new record was Ike, KE4GYM with Dennis, KE4IKO acting as alternate net control.

GARS has received its Special Services Club designation. Joe, AD4PZ has a press release from the ARRL that he is modifying for release to the local media.

As part of the SSC designation, GARS will name a VHF/HF awards manager. This manager can check cards and certify them for WAS and 5BWAS HF awards and the VUCC VHF award. ♦

the Five

by 84-Ode

He entered smiling nervously
to the room to take his test.
He hadn't slept a wink that night,
he really needed rest.

He'd waited in the car outside
for an hour before they opened,
boning up just one more time
on the Morse code he felt weak on.

They told him where to take a seat
and handed him some paper.
They told him how to fill it out
but it really didn't matter.

His hearing wasn't working.
His eyesight was quite blurry.
They couldn't see his sweating palms,
or that his heart was full of worry.

He finished his 610 form
and handed them his cash.
They said they'd run the "twenty" first
so the "five" wouldn't seem so fast.

He listened quite intently
as the dits went flying by.
He thought he caught a "the",
an "and" an "ing" and a "5".

When the first code test had ended
he wanted to hit the door.
Whatever made him come here?
His speed can't be much past four.

His nervousness had changed to fear
the "thirteen" flew on by.
This time he copied more of it, though,
maybe there WAS hope for the "five".

He listened as the warm-up ran
and copied most all the letters.
He thought "Maybe I'll get through this,
I'd swear I'm getting better!"

He tried to still his beating heart
and lined up all his pencils.
He straightened up his scratch pad
at just the perfect angle.

All the advice his Elmers gave
went running through his mind:
"Try to relax, take a deep breath,
you can do it, take your time."

The VE said: "OK here we go
get ready for the test."
His heart was in his stomach,
his brain must do the rest.

He copied first three V's,
two call signs and a name,
three letters of a QTH
the weather there was "rain".

He heard a quite loud rustling noise
over by the door.
It turned out to be a little bug
running across the floor.

"I've got to try and concentrate
or I'm going to blow this test",
he thought as he stared off into space,
letting his hands and ears do the rest.

He looked not at the paper,
as his fingers deftly flew.
They wrote the letters one by one
his mind so surely new.

And when it all was over
he still heard beat his heart.
He handed in his paper.
He knew he'd done his part.

The old timers say "how tough it was"
back in the "good old days"
when "Uncle Charlie" held the tests
four times a year, they say.

I beg to differ, OM
it isn't all that nice.
When you go to take your code test,
you still must pay the price. ♦

take a spot. I am still getting information and will check on the availability of antenna setups etc.

Benefield Elementary is located at the intersection of Old Norcross Road and Cruse Road, near Atkinson Road and Hwy 316.

I also plan to contact the individual who organizes Dyer Elementaries' "Safe Saturday" in a couple of weeks to try to get us involved there, as well. That day would be on October the 1st.

Give me, Tammi Ford, KE4IKK, a ring at 822-1749 for more information or to offer assistance.

PUBLIC LANDS DAY

GARS is set to demonstrate amateur radio at Public Lands Day to be October 8th from 10:00 AM until about 4:30 PM. Help is needed to man the event. Please contact Mary Bachner, KE4MFZ at home; 952-4622, or at her office; 822-8844 to volunteer to help demonstrate Amateur Radio and promote GARS.

COMING EVENTS

The August Meeting program will be one devoted to ARES in Gwinnett County (Amateur Radio Emergency Service), conducted by Pat Runkle KC4DOO, the Gwinnett County ARES Emergency Co-ordinator.

FALL FOCUS on FAMILIES

On Saturday, October 8, Benefield Elementary will be having their Fall Festival from 10:00 AM until 4:00PM.

Last years' was a big event with live entertainment, silent auction, crafts games and hundreds of excited kids with their harried parents and this years promises to be even better.

I have arranged for us to have a booth or table set up in the cafeteria where we can demonstrate Amateur Radio to elementary age school children, their siblings and parents.

It will be a fantastic opportunity for community outreach and awareness of the art of Amateur Radio.

We will need folks to man the table all day, so please contact me if you can

CQ SPECIAL EVENT DAY!

by Vince Hrabosky (KE4DYX)

How do you introduce radio to children of all ages, go out on an event similar to Field Day, and somehow out of all of the mess you've created you'll learn something? The answer: Help out with a special event day!

I'm a Technician No-Coder, not to mention only 15 years old, and I have a fascination with HF. I was able to operate it during Field Day, but that wasn't enough. Currently, I still pound away at trying to learn the code, but that really wasn't enough to satisfy my craving to make a contact with someone outside the US.

When I heard that the Rutledge Special Event Day was going to work HF, I had to go along. Jud (W4NZJ) was kind enough to supply me with transportation on July 7, to Camp Independence. This camp, located near Rutledge, GA, is dedicated to children who are in need of, or have already had, kidney transplants.

We started out early, and picked up several other fellow Amateurs that joined our little convoy of cars and trucks with antennas along I-20 and headed towards Rutledge. They were Arnold (KC4ZUA), Bill (W4DQT), and Bill (N4YCC). I had never seen a camp of this size that could accommodate children in wheelchairs, yet, allow all these campers to swim in a

pool, horse back ride along trails, and even boat along a small lake.

We setup our antennas, which consisted of a 2 meter beam, a 2 meter 5/8 wave magnetic mount stuck upside-down onto a metal support, and an HF dipole setup for several bands. Soon, our radios were also up and working on a table which rested inside a building used for events such as basket ball. I was very surprised to hear people calling us soon after I flipped on the two meter radio! Arnold manned a small packet station, Jud had his hands glued to the HF rig, and I was assigned the 2 meter voice. It wasn't long before children ranging in the ages of 6 to 18 began to wonder what these crazy people with popping, crackling, and whistling radios were doing here at their camp. They soon gathered around to listen in.

As part of the demonstration, I began to walk along the trails with my two meter HT, talking to people back at the station about how many fish they had caught, what they thought of the camp, and the upcoming carnival that they were hoping wouldn't be ruined by the predicted rain. (Some of these children had more confidence than me to get on the radio!). It wasn't long before Bill (N4YCC) walked the paths, and hid with his HT, while I and several others hunted him down with a fox-hunting outfit that Arnold supplied. Upon finding him, we swapped places, and allowed him to try to find us. I've never gotten stranger looks from anyone in my life, as people watched us walking the trails with an antenna that we rotated, a radio that gave a changing

tone, and all the time people with my group saying "Maybe he's over there..." or "He could be hiding behind there...". The fox-hunt ended, with tired and over-heated people. Everyone said they had a great time, despite the looks people gave us.

The rain then began to fall, and the equipment had to be covered to protect it from the moisture. I began to wonder if we weren't about to be flooded by the downpours that seemed to last forever!

Surviving on a dinner of peanut-butter crackers, and Jud occasionally soaking us with his water-gun, we continued to call for stations, all the while trying to explain to people what we were doing. Never have I seen such happy, or delighted children when they heard someone talking back to them. I'll say it right now, I did not make many contacts on the radio at all, I really didn't even touch HF during this event, but it was fulfilling enough to see people

become so interested and so delighted at talking to someone on the radios we brought. We even had several that wanted to start studying right then and there for their test!

After it was all over, the dismantling of the antennas, the disconnection of power cables, and the boxing up of radios, we were all ready for a good long night's sleep.

I would recommend participating in this type of special event to everyone, because it is great to help others and recruits other people interested in this wonderful hobby of ours. The stress you have to put up with are great: Trying to get that antenna to point in the right direction, trying to figure out what is causing interference to your radio (only to discover that it's the person's radio next to you that's doing it!), and trying to explain to a kid why we can't let him talk to AM 750. Get out there and try it! I guarantee you'll enjoy it and receive something wonderful in return! ♦

6-95

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Detach and Mail

GARS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (SHORT FORM)

Amateur Callsign: _____ Class: _____ Expires: __/__/__ Date of Birth: __/__/__

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ - _____ Work-Phone: _____ - _____ Fax-Phone: _____ - _____

Type of membership: [] -Individual [] -Family ARRL Member? Y/N _____ Life? Y/N _____

Additional members for Family Memberships:

NAME:	CALLSIGN:	CLASS (circle 1)	BIRTH DATE	ARRL Y/N	LIFE? Y/N
_____	_____	E A G T+ T N	__/__/__	Y/N	Y/N
_____	_____	E A G T+ T N	__/__/__	Y/N	Y/N
_____	_____	E A G T+ T N	__/__/__	Y/N	Y/N

Check Interests:

[] -Class instruction [] -Field Day operation [] -Repeater maintenance [] -Gars club booth staffing [] -Community events

[] -Emergency [] -Administrative [] -Fund raisers

[] Other _____

Dues: April 1 to Sept 30

\$25.00 for Individual Memberships

\$35.00 for Family Memberships

From Oct. 1 to Dec. 31:

\$12.50 for Individual Membership

\$17.50 for Family Memberships

From Jan 1 to March 31

\$6.25 for Individual Membership

\$8.75 for Family Memberships



Mail your completed application with check made out to GARS to: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 88 Lilburn, Ga 30226

Atlanta Metro Area VE/VEC Examination Schedules From SERA Repeater Journal and other sources. Published as a service to its members, GARS assumes no responsibility for errors or schedule changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in.

1st Sunday - Lawrenceville W5YI-VEC - Jackson EMC
461 Swanson Rd - Lawrenceville - 2:00PM
Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 962-9582

1st Monday - Roswell CA-VEC 7:45PM
St Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell Rd - Marietta
Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758

1st Saturday - Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt Bldg
7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro - 9:00AM
George White, KN4NG 361-6850

2nd Sundays - First Presbyterian Church
183 West Main Street, Cartersville 3:00PM
Mark Swicord, KD4EYF - 975-1309

2nd Tuesday - Walton EMC 7:00PM
3645 - Lenora Church Rd, Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759

2nd Saturday - Stn Mtn CA-VEC 8:30AM
Stone Mountain-Methodist Church
Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160

3rd Saturdays - Marietta First United Methodist Church
56 Whitlock Ave, Room 319 - 9:00AM
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171

4th Sunday N Atlanta ARRL-VEC - Episcopal Church of the Atonement
2:30PM Highpoint Rd, Atlanta
John King, AB4GK - 381-5291

4th Friday GARS W5YI-VEC - 7:00PM - St John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trickum Rd, Lilburn
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362 Headphones!

HAMFEST CALENDAR

August	14 ..	Hamfest - Charlotte, NC.
August	20-21	Hamfest - Huntsville, AL.
<u>August</u>	<u>27</u> ..	<u>Confed. Sig. Corps. Hfest - Madison, GA</u>
August	28 ..	Hamfest - Cedars of Lebanon, TN
Sept	3-4 ..	37th Annual Hamfest -Shelby, NC
Sept	10 ..	Hamfest -Statesboro, GA
<u>Sept</u>	<u>24</u> ..	<u>Lanierland ARC Hamfest, Gainesville GA</u>
Sept	24 ..	Hamfest, Anniston, AL
Sept	24 ..	Hamfest, New Port Richie, FL
Oct	17 ..	Hamfest Titusville, FL
Oct	17 ..	Hamfest Boaz, AL
Oct	17 ..	Hamfest Gallatin, TN
<u>Oct</u>	<u>27</u> ..	<u>Hamfest Rome, GA</u>

?=Date not confirmed. Several entries taken from SERA Journal.
Georgia locations are bold, Nearby locations are bold and underlined



P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Ga 30226



The new repeater will be on soon, that will mean new patch codes and format - so be prepared!!!
GARS Meeting at Red Cross Building on Hi-Hope Rd. in Lawrenceville on the 3rd Thursday August 18th